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United States Patent [19]**Brown**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,564,002**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Oct. 8, 1996**[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
IMPLEMENTING A VIRTUAL DESKTOP
THROUGH WINDOW POSITIONING**[75] **Inventor:** **Kurt R. Brown, Lexington, Ky.**[73] **Assignee:** **International Business Machines
Corporation, Armonk, N.Y.**[21] **Appl. No.:** **284,013**[22] **Filed:** **Aug. 1, 1994**[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **G06F 3/14**[52] **U.S. Cl.** **395/155; 395/157**[58] **Field of Search** **395/155, 157,
395/159, 160, 161, 500, 600, 375, 163;
364/578**[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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A novel virtual desktop system organizes open applications of a computer into groups of programs that perform common functions or tasks. The groups of programs are called Desktops and the virtual desktop system provides a Desktop Manager for assigning ranges of display screen coordinates to these Desktops, and then assigning open applications to them. Specifically, the Desktop Manager is a system software program that contains a plurality of Desktop groups and that provides a user interface for managing the display of selected open applications assigned to the Desktops. These selected open applications are displayed in application windows on a display screen of the computer when switching between Desktops in the virtual desktop system.

18 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets